



Study on risk management of extreme weather related disasters and climate change adaptation in Malawi and Zambia (SAFE-MET)

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Similar to many other developing countries, the impacts of climate change are predicted to be severe in Sub-Saharan Africa, as the well-being is dominantly dependent on weather-sensitive agriculture and societies are vulnerable to natural disasters. There is an urgent need to search ways to improve the resilience of these vulnerable countries to be able to meet the challenges posed by the changing climate. Weather and hydrological forecasts and early warnings are a tool to prepare for impending weather disasters. Forecasting of drought, floods or storms is important to the sectors of society that are most susceptible to weather impacts; in addition to agriculture, sectors such as water supply, energy generation and transport suffer from hazardous weather events.

An example of an ongoing project, seeking answers for one of the biggest challenges faced by developing countries, is an Academy of Finland-funded research project for improving the functioning of early warning systems in Malawi and Zambia. The project focuses on the connection between climatic risks and adaptation to climate change. By evaluating the meteorological observation network, forecasting facilities and the use of early warning systems, the project aims to improve the capacity of Malawi and Zambia to prepare for natural disasters. Furthermore, adaptation to climate change is investigated by analyzing the use of weather services in the weather-based index insurance market and in humanitarian aid, and by determining the link between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The results of the study will improve Malawi's and Zambia's preparedness for current hazardous weather events and adaptation to the changing climate. This promotes the attainment of the goals set for poverty reduction and provides people with better living conditions in the not too distant future.